

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been amended to include the appropriate headings and to correct certain informalities.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0176200) in view of Welty (U.S. Patent No. 5,109,222).

With respect to the Harrison reference, there are submitted herewith the following documents:

1. Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.131;
2. Certified copy of corresponding Italian Patent Application No. MI2000A000322, filed on February 22, 2000; and
3. Verified English translation of above-identified Italian Patent Application.

Since the invention of the subject matter of Claims 1-15 has been established as of a date that is prior to the effective date of June 13, 2001 (International filing date) of the Harrison reference, this reference should no longer be an obstacle to the allowance of Claims 1-15.

The disclosure of the secondary reference to Welty fails to render obvious the novel recitations in Claims 1-15 as filed. Welty discloses a so-called "intelligent house" (i.e., a house where electrically operated equipment of the type normally found in houses is wire-connected to a control logic unit) where the control logic unit is controlled by the user through a hand-held remote control device and a plurality of sensors, typically located in each room of the house, which are coupled to the hand-held control device through infrared connecting means. The system of Welty is significantly different from the network connection system for machine tools wherein the network is a wireless network and at least some of the machine tools comprise a